

OREGON CROP WEATHER



Oregon
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

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Weather: Most temperatures throughout the State were below normal. The coldest temperature recorded last week was 24 degrees in Lorella and the highest recorded temperature was 84 degrees in Medford, Echo, and in Hermiston. Generally, temperatures averaged in the 50's and 60's throughout Oregon with warmer temperatures in the southwest, the northern central area, and in the Willamette Valley. There was very little precipitation recorded last week. Almost half of the reporting stations did not record any precipitation. There was a little moisture on the coast, in the Willamette Valley, and in southwest Oregon, but most other areas either received no precipitation or trace amounts.

Field Crops: Dry conditions slowed winter wheat seeding progress and fall field preparations. Low soil moisture levels have allowed for very little winter wheat to be planted, especially in north central and northeast Oregon. Many producers expressed concern regarding high fuel and fertilizer prices. Haying continues in some parts of the State. Vole populations were high in Willamette Valley grass seed fields. Some fields were being treated. Field corn harvest in Polk County was still three to four weeks away.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Range and pasture conditions remained very dry throughout the State. Rangeland in southeastern Oregon was reported in good condition, but the remainder of the State was average or below. Producers in many areas continued supplemental feeding. The demand for hay has increased in the past several weeks. Cattle producers, in some areas, were optimistic that precipitation will salvage fall pastures, however others began early sales of calves due to a lack of good pastures.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Northern Willamette Valley nurseries were gearing up for the fall shipping season. Fall bedding plants are still available. Greenhouse and nursery crops were slowing down in the southern Willamette Valley. Southern Oregon greenhouses were still getting fall vegetable and decorative plant starts ready. Nurseries were busy getting stock ready for fall planting. There were still a lot of plants, trees, and shrubs to water.

Vegetables: Sweet corn and tomato harvest continued in Clackamas County. Squash and pumpkins were becoming more plentiful. Jackson County farmer's markets and roadside stands had good supplies of tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers and corn available. Sweet corn harvest peaked last week in Washington County. In Malheur County, onion harvest was about half done. Potato and bean harvest continued.

Fruits and Nuts: Evergreen blackberry picking is nearing it's end in the northern Willamette Valley. Wild blackberries are ripe. Most other caneberries are finished and are being pruned and hung. Hazelnut growers are getting ready for harvest as nuts are starting to fall. The price has been set at a record \$1.00 per pound so growers will be looking to harvest the crop completely this year. There has been a lack of apples and prunes throughout the north and south valley this year. Winter pear harvest continued in the lower and mid Hood River Valley. Harvest was just beginning in Parkdale. Apple harvest continued. Wine grape harvest continued in southern Oregon on early varieties. There are still some wild blackberries to be picked. Peach, pear, and plum harvests are winding down.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 09/18/05

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	25	58	17	0
Subsoil	24	55	21	0

Crop Progress-Week Ending 09/18/05

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat planted	7	4	2	5
Days suitable for fieldwork	7.0	6.8	5.8	6.7

Crop Condition-Week Ending 09/18/05

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Range and pasture	6	30	43	20	1

WESTERN OREGON

BENTON/LINN/LANE: Some new plantings are emerging. Fields being treated for voles. Vole population is high; prepare for vole damage this fall. Some apples are available; the crop is very light. The nice peach harvest nearing end. There are a few pears here and there. Hazelnuts are falling. Growers are getting ready for harvest. Shallots are being harvested and garlic is being planted. Greenhouse and nursery crops are slowing down.

CLACKAMAS: Still dry. Days getting shorter. Nights chilly. First frost coming soon. Growers without irrigation are really in need of rain. Seedbed preparation for fall grains are proceeding on a limited basis. Tillage for new seedings is going on in spite of extreme fuel prices. Some weed spraying is underway. Evergreen blackberry picking is near conclusion. Wild blackberries are dead ripe. Other caneberries are being pruned and hung. Distinct lack of prunes, peaches and apples. Hazelnuts, still filberts to me, are falling. Sweet corn and tomatoes are abundant. Fall vegetables such as squash and pumpkins are becoming more plentiful. Nurseries are gearing up for the fall shipping season. Fall bedding plants are still available. No rain yet, no grass, still feeding hay. Calves getting weaned and going onto feed.

COLUMBIA: Cooler weather, but mostly sunny with one significant rain event during the week. Most crops are on schedule.

COOS/CURRY: A feeling of fall. Temperatures trended downwards. Counting total precipitation at Brookings-Harbor from 9/16-17 as a single event, 91 days elapsed since the last precipitation event of 0.25" or more. Days since precipitation of 0.25" or more at Brookings-Harbor: 1 day, at Bandon: 8 days. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 53.5 at Brookings-Harbor to 55.2 deg F at Bandon; highs ranged from 63.1 at Brookings-Harbor to 65.3 deg F at Bandon, and lows ranged from 45.1 at Bandon to 48.6 deg F at Brookings-Harbor. Precipitation ranged from 0.02" at Bandon to 0.37" at Brookings-Harbor. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 30 GDD at Brookings-Harbor to 46 GDD at Bandon.

DOUGLAS: Received decent rain on Saturday. Some field burning practiced on pastures.

JACKSON: Still some haying on second cutting grass and third cutting alfalfa. Corn silage being cut. Lots of ground preparation for fall planting, but no planting yet. Still need some more rain. Most all grain is now harvested. Pears, apples, peaches and plums still being picked. Some early varieties of grapes being picked as sugar levels come up to desired levels. Still some wild blackberries, but they are just about done. Fruit packing is at peak now. Lots of fresh tomatoes, green peppers, squash, cucumbers and corn at farmers markets and roadside stands; also some u-pick signs. Greenhouses still getting fall

vegetable and decorative plant starts ready. Nurseries busy getting stock ready for fall planting. Still needing to do lots of watering of plants, trees and shrubs. Livestock on irrigated pastures are doing well, but it's taking lots of irrigating to keep the pastures up. Some fall calves now showing up in pastures with their moms. The rain we had last Saturday and another light rain on Friday was a welcome event. With some luck, we may get some fall pasture. Weather has been a bit cooler both days and nights with some dew developing. Days mostly mid 70's to 80 degrees. Nights in the 40's. It has been quite a pleasant week allowing most any farm or ranch work to get done.

JOSEPHINE: Very cool nights and warm mild days. Grape harvest continues. Peaches, pears and plums are winding down. Still have lots of corn, tomatoes and summer squash in truck gardens. They also had lots of watermelon and cantaloupe, which is very unusual here. Usually the season is neither long enough nor warm enough. Haying continues with some ranchers having hay down during a brief shower. Nothing measurable but it did leave dew in the air and the ground.

MARION: Temperatures have cooled some. A couple days with rain and drizzle. Fields being prepared for fall planting. There is still a fair amount of vole activity in fields. There were six days suitable for field work.

POLK: Areas received light rainfall this past week, however, not enough to penetrate past the top soil. Pastures are still dry. There has been a significant interest in emergency loans this year due to crop losses. Field corn is still at least three to four weeks from being harvested.

WASHINGTON: Some late planted small grains waiting to ripen. High 76, low 46, humidity from 62 to 84 percent with 0.2" rain. Spraying for feral blackberries and noxious weeds. Field corn maturing rapidly. Most red clover swathed, should start combining soon. Fourth cutting alfalfa continues. Preparing fields for fall planting. Preparing most berries for dormant season. Some late berries still around. Nuts getting set for major drop. Prunes are a disaster. Sweet corn harvest peaking. Table beets going to processor. Tomatoes ripening faster. Squash continue to produce well. Fall plant sales of hardy variety showing many new plants. Supplemental feed keeping livestock in good shape.

YAMHILL: Apple and pear harvest continues. Nut drop continues in hazelnut orchards. The grower hazelnut price has been set at a record high of \$1.00 per pound, so growers will be looking to harvest the crop completely this year.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Producers could use a some timely fall rains. Livestock producers are experiencing depleted aftermath grazing, and are looking at earlier supplemental feeding dates. As a result of depleted fall grazing, demand for hay has increased in the past few weeks. Planting of fall crops has also been hindered due to the lack of moisture.

GILLIAM: Still in the process of gathering grazing conditions for both Gilliam and Wheeler counties. Beginning to hear grazing is much worse than thought.

HARNEY: Frost late last week encouraging third and fourth crop alfalfa harvest. Higher range pasture still in good shape, cattle doing very well.

HOOD RIVER: Winter pear harvest continued in the lower and mid Hood River Valley. Harvest was just beginning in Parkdale. Apple harvest continued throughout the valley.

KLAMATH: Grain is 95 percent harvested. Finishing up cutting of alfalfa. Potatoes 95 percent turning. Heavy seasonal movement of yearlings from summer pasture to feedlots.

LAKE: Morning and evening temperatures remain cool. Received some precipitation over the weekend. Grain producers throughout the county are completing harvest.

MALHEUR: Had a good shower last Friday evening. However it was not enough to delay fall field work. Temperatures were about normal. No rain this previous week. Haying continues - 3rd and 4th cutting of alfalfa is in the swath. Grain harvest is done and fields are being worked up and fertilized for fall. Winter wheat fields are starting to be planted. Onion harvest is about 50 percent done. Potatoes, silage corn, and bean harvest continued. Range and cattle condition continues to be good to excellent, mostly good.

MORROW: Warm and dry, so growers were holding off seeding winter wheat. Some third and fourth alfalfa cuttings being put up on the north end of the county.

SHERMAN: What a difference a year makes! Last year at this time, with good planting conditions, our seed plant had loaded about 45,000 bushels, and to date this dry year we are only at 8,000 bushels. Some fall fertilizing and lots of concern about skyrocketing fertilizer prices! Dug holes yesterday to look at soil moisture. There is some moisture, and cool nights are bringing it up, but it is three to five inches deeper in the chemical fallowed versus conventional. Nothing has been seeded to date and the usual seeding window is rapidly approaching.

UMATILLA: No rain last week. No rain in the forecast. Only a little winter wheat planted. Most will wait until the first of October, and if still no rain, they will dust it in.

UNION: Pastures and ranges are extremely dry. Some ranchers are starting to supplemental feed. A few calves are going to sale early due to lack of good pasture.

WALLOWA: Send water!

WASCO: The whole county is dry and needs rain for fall grain seeding. Winter wheat planting is at a stand still. Fuel and fertilizer prices are way above normal and will be a factor in next year's crop profits. Hay harvest is winding down for this season, and fruit harvest continued. Pastures and ranges have reached a season low, and water is becoming short for all livestock. However, cattle are still holding their own. Rain would help all farm and ranch situations.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: September 18, 2005 (as of 11:00 am)

Station	Air temperature ¹				Growing ² Degree days		Last week precip. ³			Season cum. precipitation ⁴			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN	Total	DFN	Total Inches	DFN	Days	Total Inches	DFN	Pct. Normal	Days
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	45	71	57	-2	53	-7	-	-0.67	-	0.38	-1.15	25	6
Bandon ⁵	44	66	55	-3	37	-17	-	-0.38	-	0.43	-0.48	47	3
Crescent City	45	60	53	-6	25	-35	0.25	-0.14	2	0.31	-0.59	34	4
Florence	40	71	56	-5	42	-28	1.00	0.44	2	1.54	0.26	120	5
Tillamook	38	68	54	-4	33	-22	0.22	-0.66	2	1.26	-0.74	63	5
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁵	42	78	60	-3	73	-10	0.08	-0.34	1	0.10	-0.89	10	2
Corvallis	39	79	59	-4	63	-20	0.26	-0.09	2	0.38	-0.44	46	5
Detroit Lake ⁵	41	78	58	+2	55	+7	0.18	-0.34	1	1.55	0.32	126	3
Eugene	38	80	60	-4	70	-22	0.16	-0.24	2	0.26	-0.69	27	4
Hillsboro	40	78	58	-4	57	-20	0.05	-0.30	2	0.05	-0.80	6	2
McMinnville	41	79	60	-3	72	-11	0.19	-0.19	1	0.40	-0.48	45	3
Portland	47	77	61	-3	79	-16	0.02	-0.40	2	0.03	-1.00	3	3
Salem	41	77	60	-3	72	-11	0.26	-0.09	2	1.10	0.27	133	5
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	42	83	62	-4	87	-19	0.18	-0.03	1	0.38	-0.08	83	2
Medford	42	84	63	-4	95	-15	0.03	-0.18	1	0.32	-0.18	64	3
Roseburg	43	81	62	-2	87	-10	0.05	-0.23	1	0.26	-0.40	39	2
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	36	77	55	-3	37	-19	-	-0.16	-	-	-0.49	-	-
Echo ⁵	42	84	63	+0	93	+0	-	-0.10	-	0.01	-0.31	3	1
Heppner	42	79	59	-3	61	-17	-	-0.21	-	-	-0.46	-	-
Hermiston	39	84	62	-1	90	-3	-	-0.10	-	-	-0.32	-	-
John Day	36	79	56	-4	43	-25	0.02	-0.19	2	0.02	-0.52	4	2
Madras ⁵	35	77	56	-4	44	-22	-	-0.14	-	-	-0.36	-	-
Moro	39	77	57	-3	49	-19	-	-0.14	-	0.05	-0.31	14	1
Parkdale ⁵	34	77	55	-5	38	-35	-	-0.28	-	0.02	-0.64	3	1
Pendleton	42	80	61	-4	76	-18	-	-0.14	-	0.09	-0.26	26	1
The Dalles	43	82	64	+4	96	+25	-	-0.14	-	-	-0.36	-	-
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁵	28	74	50	-5	8	-34	0.04	-0.10	3	0.07	-0.29	19	4
Bend	34	74	53	-3	30	-16	0.03	-0.10	1	0.03	-0.32	9	1
Burns	26	78	52	-4	18	-25	0.03	-0.11	1	0.03	-0.33	8	1
Christmas Valley ⁵	26	77	50	-10	11	-57	0.11	-0.02	4	0.24	-0.10	71	6
Klamath Falls	32	74	51	-9	13	-55	0.03	-0.07	1	0.03	-0.28	10	1
Klamath Falls ⁵	32	75	52	-8	16	-52	-	-0.10	-	-	-0.31	-	-
Lakeview	27	73	50	-9	9	-48	-	-0.14	-	-	-0.36	-	-
Lorella ⁵	24	76	50	-10	9	-59	-	-0.10	-	0.02	-0.29	6	2
Redmond	30	78	54	-4	30	-25	0.12	0.05	1	0.52	0.23	179	3
Worden ⁵	27	75	50	-10	11	-57	0.16	0.06	2	0.16	-0.15	52	2
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	27	79	51	-7	12	-44	-	-0.17	-	-	-0.50	-	-
Joseph	35	77	54	+2	27	-6	-	-0.32	-	0.11	-0.65	14	2
La Grande	32	81	55	-5	39	-33	-	-0.21	-	-	-0.57	-	-
Prairie City ⁵	29	75	51	+1	16	-11	-	-0.27	-	0.01	-0.70	1	1
Union	32	80	54	-4	29	-29	-	-0.24	-	0.03	-0.65	4	2
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	37	82	60	-4	69	-24	0.05	-0.09	2	0.05	-0.31	14	2
Rome	31	82	56	-4	45	-27	0.05	-0.09	2	0.05	-0.31	14	2

¹ Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit. ² Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit. ³ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

⁴ Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2005. ⁵ Agri-Met weather stations.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).
Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Summary based on NWS data.
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